

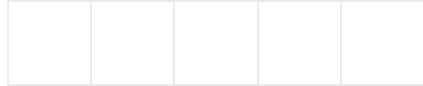
SUZY MENKES

## #SuzyMFW Fausto Puglisi And MaxMara: The Real World Versus Fashion Statements

Milan fashion moves between food for thought and clothes for the closet.

by SUZY MENKES

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**A**t a moment of turmoil in the global fashion industry, when companies have to decide whether to move at the speed of the internet or to take a more thoughtful, slower approach, the difference in style and temperament between the Milan shows is enormous.

### Fausto Puglisi: Behind Bars

“ Italy - the sun, the sea, the perfect bodies of Greek statues or the mosaics of the Palatine Chapel,” said Fausto Puglisi to define his roots in southern Italy.

But the show was much darker than those words suggested, as the designer went on to talk about the invasion of his Sicilian home land by Phoenicians, Greeks, Byzantines, Muslims and Normans - to name a few.

So the leitmotif was slavery, people behind bars. It was a theatrical show put together by Armando Punzo the artistic director of Volterra, the world's only theatre company inside a prison.

And as each model/actor came out behind bars, against the backdrop of an altar and with a neon crucifix illuminated above their heads, they looked like supplicants as seen in a Caravaggio painting.

The clothes seemed to be the least of the display to the designer. But the visible outfits included a jacket, slashed open, and trousers. Even simple shorts and tops had certain menace.

Into view would come a bared back framed by a dress with beige pink and green panels, while another flowerpatterned, Grecian drape dress was pulled together with a hefty belt.

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